NUMB. CCCCXLV.

The SPECTATOR.

Tanti non es ais. Sapis, Luperce. Mart.

Thursday, July 31. 1712.

THIS is the Day on which many eminent Authors will probably Publish their Last Words. I am afraid that few of our Weekly Historians, who are Men that love all others delight in War, will be able to hold out under the Weight of a Stamp, and an approaching Peace. A Sheet of Blank Paper that must have this new Imprimatur clapt upon it, before it is qualified to Communicate any thing to the Publick, will make its way in the World but very heavily. In short, the Necessity of carrying a Stamp, and the Improbability of notifying a Bloody Battel well, I am afraid, both concur to the sinking of those thin Folios, which have every other Day retailed to us the History of *Europe* for several Years past. A Facetious Friend of mine, who loves a Pun, calls this present Mortality among Authors, *The Fall of the Leaf.*

I remember, upon Mr. *Baxter*'s Death, there was published a Sheet of very good Sayings, inscribed, *The last Words of Mr.* Baxter. The Title sold so well, that a Number of these Papers, that about a Week after, there came out a second Sheet inscribed, *More last Words of Mr.* Baxter. In the same manner, I have Reason to think, that several Ingenious Writers, who have taken their Leave of the Publick, in farewel Papers, will not give over so, but intend to appear again, tho' perhaps under another Form, and with a different Title. Be that as it will, it is my Business, in this place, to give an Account of my own Intentions, and to acquaint my Reader with the Motives by which I Act, in this great Crisis of the Republick of Letters.

I have been long debating in my own Heart, whether I should throw up my Pen, as an Author that is cashiered by the Act of Parliament, which is to Operate within these Four and Twenty Hours, or whether I should still persist in laying my Speculations, from Day to Day, before the Publick. The Argument which prevails with me most on the first side of the Question is, that I am informed by my Bookseller he must raise the Price of every single Paper to Two-pence, or that he shall not be able to pay the Duty of it. Now as I am very desirous my Readers should have their Learning as cheap as possible, it is with great Difficulty that I comply with him in this Particular.

However, upon laying my Reasons together in the Balance, I find that those which plead for the Continuance of this Work have much the greater Weight. For, in the First place, in recompence for the Expence to which this will put my Readers, it is to be hoped they may receive from every Paper so much Instruction, as will be a very good Equivalent. And, in order to this, I would not advise any one to take it in, who, after the Perusal of it, does not find himself Twopence the wiser, or the better Man for it; or who, upon Examination, does not believe that he has had Two penny-worth of Mirth or Instruction for his Mony.

But I must confess there is another Motive which prevails with me more than the former. I consider that the Tax on Paper was given for the Support of the Government; and as I have Enemies, who are apt to pervert every thing I do or say, I fear they wou'd ascribe the laying down my Paper, on such an occasion, to a Spirit of Malecontentedness, which I am resolved none shall ever justly upbraid me with. No, I shall glory in contributing my utmost to the Weal Publick; and if my Country receives Five or Six Pounds a-Day by my Labours, I shall be very well pleased to find my self so useful a Member. It is a receiv'd Maxim, that no Honest Man shou'd enrich himself by Methods that are prejudicial to the Community in which he lives, and by the same Rule I think we may pronounce the Person to deserve very well of his Country-men, whose Labours bring more into the Publick Coffers, than into his own Pocket.

Since I have mentioned the Word Enemies, I must explain my self so far as to acquaint my Reader, that I mean only the insignificant Party Zealots on both sides; Men of such poor narrow Souls, that they are not capable of thinking on any thing but with an Eye to Whig or Tory. During the Course of this Paper, I have been accused by these despicable Wretches of Trimming, Time-serving, Personal Reflection, secret Satire, and the like. Now, tho' in these my Compositions, it is visible to any Reader of Common Sense, that I consider nothing but my Subject, which is always of an Indifferent Nature; how is it possible for me to write so clear of Party, as not to lie open to the Censures of those who will be applying every Sentence, and finding

finding out Persons and Things in it which it has no regard to?

Several Paltry Scribblers and Declaimers have done me the Honour to be dull upon me in Reflections of this Nature; but notwithstanding my Name has been sometimes traduced by this contemptible Tribe of Men, I have hitherto avoided all Animadversions upon 'em. The truth of it is, I am afraid of making them appear considerable by taking notice of them, for they are like those Imperceptible Insects which are discover'd by the Microscope, and cannot be made the Subject of Observation without being magnified.

Having mentioned those few who have shewn themselves the Enemies of this Paper, I shou'd be very ungrateful to the Publick, did not I at the same time testifie my Gratitude to those who are its Friends, in which number I may reckon many of the most distinguished Persons of all Conditions, Parties and Professions in the Isle of *Great Britain*. I am not so vain as to think this Approbation is so much due to the Performance as to the Design. There is, and ever will be, Justice enough in the World, to afford Patronage and Protection for those who endeavour to advance Truth and Virtue, without regard to the Passions and Prejudices of any particular Cause or Faction. If I have any other Merit in me, it is that I have new-pointed all the Batteries of Ridicule. They have been generally planted against Persons who have appeared Serious rather than Absurd; or at best, have aimed rather at what is Unfashionable than what is Vicious. For my own part, I have endeavoured to make nothing Ridiculous that is not in some measure Criminal. I have set up the Immoral Man as the Object of Derision: In short, if I have not formed a new Weapon against Vice and Irreligion, I have at least shewn how that Weapon may be put to a right use, which has so often fought the Battels of Impiety and Prophaneness.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Dr. Nichols's Supplement, being a Comment on the Offices for the 30th of January, the 29th of May, &c. And those for Ordaining of Bishops, Priests, &c. With Arch-Bishop Laud's Introduction to the Liturgy, publish'd from the Manuscript at Lambeth, without which Offices the Common Prayer Book is Incomplear. pr. 5 s. With 15, and part of the 16th, Articles of the Church of England; being all finish'd and corrected by the Dr. in his Life Time, pr. 2 s. 6 d. Is to be had of Mrs. Nicholls, in Smith-street Westminster, of James Holland, at the Bible and Ball in St. Paul's Church-yard, and Mr. Taylor, at the Ship in Pater-Noster-Row. To be Bound up with the 2d Edition of Dr. Nicholls Commentaries on the Common Prayer, fit for Gentlemens Halls and Churches. Where is likewise to be had the Supplement and Articles on large Paper.

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The Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity. In three Parts. Wherein All the Texts in the New Testament relating to that Doctrine, and the principal Passages in the Liturgy of the Church of England are collected, compared and explained. By Samuel Clarke, D. D. Rector of St. James's Westminster, and Chaplain in Ordinary to Her Majesty. Printed for James Knapton at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard. Price 6 d.

This Day is Published, The Third Part of

The Odes of Horace, in Latin and English. With a Translation of Dr. Bentley's Notes. Printed for Bernard Lintott at the Cross Keys between the two Temple Gates in Fleet-street. Of whom may be had Dr. Bentley's Dedication, Life and Preface to Horace, price 6 d. each. Also some Account of Horace's Behaviour during his stay at Trinity College, price 6 d. And next Week will be Published, The Iliad of Homer. Translated from the Greek, with Madam Dacier's Notes. Printed finely with an Elz Letter, in 5 Vols. 12mo. Price 12 s. 6 d. Illustrated with 26 Copper Plates.

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A Collection of all the Addresses, &c. of the Lor and Comm ns to the Queen since her Happy Ac ession to the Thr price 1 s. Just Published, A Col ction of all her Majesty's K Wisdom's Speeches, Messages, &c. price 6 d. each. Sold by J. in Pater-noster-row; where may be had the History of Prince M in three Parts, price 3 s. and the Tryal and Condemnation o Presa io d'Asaven, price 6 d.

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Overbury Hale, Druggist, at the Great Red Li in the Hay market, over-against the Play-house, sells fine Bohea at 20 s. a Pound, and very good at 16 s. fine Green Tea at 14 P. und, and a good sort at 10 s. and draws Oil of Almonds and L seeds fresh from the Presses every Day, and sells fine Florence for 12 s. per Gallon, and right German Spaw Water at 14 s. per D.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Wednesday the 6th of August, at Lloyd's C fee-house in Lombard street, at 5 in the Afternoon, (only one in a Lot) 100 Hhds of excellent new French Clarets, viz. Marg Obrion, and others of the best Growths of France, deep, bright, fresh and of the true Flavour, neat, and imported by Tourton and Guiguer, directly from Bourdeaux, now in a Ves the House of Mr. Bourne in Suffolk-lane near London-stone; mon-street, and near the Steel-yard in Thames street. To and tasted next Monday the 4th, and Tuesday the 5th of August from 9 to 1, and from 2 to 6, and all Wednesday as above till time of Sale. Note, the Buyers are desired to appear punctu the Hour appointed, the Sale being to be compleated without adj ing. To be sold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker in Seething-lane in To street.

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